

CHAPTER NO. 856

SENATE BILL NO. 3765

By Beavers, Williams

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3712

By Winningham, Armstrong, Baird, Bone, Borchert, Briley, Harry Brooks, Henri Brooks, Buck, Bunch, Campfield, Casada, Clem, Cobb, Cochran, Coleman, Cooper, Crider, Curtiss, Davidson, Davis, Dean, John Deberry, Lois DeBerry, Dubois, Dunn, Eldridge, Ferguson, Fitzhugh, Fowlkes, Fraley, Godsey, Gresham, Hackworth, Hargrove, Harmon, Harrison, Harwell, Hawk, Hensley, Hill, Hood, Curtis Johnson, Phillip Johnson, Russell Johnson, Sherry Jones, Ulysses Jones, Kelsey, Kernell, Langster, Litz, Lynn, Maddox, Maggart, Marrero, Matheny, McCord, McCormick, McDaniel, McDonald, McKee, Miller, Montgomery, Moore, Mumpower, Niceley, Odom, Overbey, Pinion, Pleasant, Pruitt, Rinks, Roach, Rowe, Rowland, Sargent, Shaw, Shepard, Sontany, Stanley, Strader, Swafford, Tidwell, Tindell, Todd, Towns, Larry Turner, Mike Turner, Vaughn, Bo Watson, Eric Watson, West, Windle, Yokley, Mr. Speaker Naifeh

AN ACT relative to memorial designations on State Route 840.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Sergeant Robert Wesley Tucker, 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard, who was killed in the line of duty on October 13, 2005, while serving in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, known as Wesley to his family and friends, Sergeant Tucker was a beloved son, husband, and father; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which Clay County and the Volunteer State are renowned, Wesley Tucker served with distinction as a sergeant in the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment for two years; and

WHEREAS, also known as the Third Tennessee/Three River Regiment, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment is headquartered in Knoxville, with units throughout East and Middle Tennessee; this regiment more than 3,000 soldiers was mobilized in June of 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Wesley Tucker did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Wesley Tucker served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Wesley Tucker's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, in civilian life, Wesley Tucker was a dedicated employee of the Clay County Highway Department, and he worked with purpose and conviction to build and maintain the best roads possible for the citizens of Clay County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 35 of the Public Acts of 2005 designated State Route 840 in its entirety, from its intersection with Interstate Highway 40 West in Dickson County to its intersection with Interstate Highway 40 East in Wilson County, including segments of such highway still under construction, as the "Tennessee National Guard Parkway" as a lasting tribute to the brave men and women who helped establish the time-honored tradition of Tennessee volunteerism, as well as those who continue this proud tradition today, as members of the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the spirit of such act, the general assembly finds it imperative to limit future designations on State Route 840 to honor the memory of those courageous members of the Tennessee National Guard who lost their lives while engaged in active duty; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the structure [95SR8400010] spanning State Route 840 (Tennessee National Guard Parkway) at log mile 6.14 (State Route 265 and State Route 109 [Central Pike]) in Wilson County is hereby designated the "Sergeant Robert Wesley Tucker Memorial Overpass" as a lasting tribute to this valiant Tennessee National Guardsman who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of his country.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation shall erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers, such signs or markers to be visible to motorists traveling on State Route 840, designating the structure [95SR8400010] spanning State Route 840 (Tennessee National Guard Parkway) at log mile 6.14 (State Route 265 and State Route 109 [Central Pike]) in Wilson County as the "Sergeant Robert Wesley Tucker Memorial Overpass". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.


SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 23, 2006


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2006


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR